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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TOBACCO FROM 1625 TO 1640.

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"The story of TOBACCO would contain almost the whole politics of the Southern Colonies of that age."—*Chalmers's Political Annals of the Present United Colonies*, chap. 5, p. 129.

"Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit eundo;
Parva metu primò, mox sese attollit in auris;
Ingriditurque solo, et caput inter nubila coadit."—*Eneid*, lib. iv., 175-177.

HAVING, in some of the previous volumes of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, traced the curious history of tobacco from the year 1492, when Christopher Columbus and his crew were astonished at its fumigation in the island of St. Domingo,* to the death of the "royal pamphleteer," as the antiquary Oldys quaintly terms James I., of England,† we propose, in the present paper, to continue the narrative to a still later period.

Charles the First ascended the English throne March 27th, 1625, and the very next month, April 9th, he issued a *Proclamation de Herbâ Nicotianâ*,‡ in which he repeated his father's prohibition of all tobacco which was not of the growth of his own dominions, and forbade its planting in either England or Ireland. Indeed this tyrannical monarch, by a succession of edicts, continued during the whole time he was in possession of power, attempted to increase the revenue his father had derived from this source.

At this time the Virginia Company, in London, had raised a capital of £200,000, and might have proceeded more prosperously than they had hitherto done, but for the continuation of the quarrels which had divided them. Disgusted with this state of contention, many of the stockholders sold out their shares, while others emigrated with their families and servants to the colony itself. Charles made their disagreements a pretext for taking the business into his own control, and proceeded to establish a royal government.§ This he did, in the approved style of his father,

* Primer Viage de Colon, printed in Navarrete's Colección de Viages y Descubrimientos que hicieron por mar los Españoles desde fines del Siglo xv., &c. tom. i. p. 51.

† The Works of Sir Walter Ralegh, Kt., now first collected: to which is prefixed the Lives of the author by Oldys and Birch, vol. i. p. 76.

‡ Rymer's Foedera, Conventiones, Litterae et ejus cumque Generis Acta Publica inter Reges Angliae, &c. tom. xviii. p. 19.

§ Rymer's Foedera, Conventiones, &c. tom. xviii. p. 18.

by *proclamation*, and after setting forth the ills of a government "consisting of a multitude of persons of various dispositions, amongst whom the greatest affairs are ruled by a majority of votes!" he goes on to "ordain that the government of Virginia shall immediately depend on ourselves;" declares that nobody shall buy any of their tobacco but *himself*, and graciously adds, "to avoid all differences between the planters and adventurers themselves, we resolve to take the same into our own hands, and to give such prices for the same as may give reasonable satisfaction, whereof we will determine at better leisure."

Having thus determined to monopolize the trade in this staple, and turned himself into a royal tobacco merchant, Charles next set himself about increasing the number of workmen on his plantations, and therefore granted lands upon a quit rent of two shillings per annum for each hundred acres. These terms were indeed easy, and many respectable families were induced to emigrate. His schemes, however, to make himself the sole tobacco factor for the entire American Colonies, were not so successful as he desired, and accordingly, early in 1627, he fulminated another regal proclamation with the same design of securing the undivided monopoly of this profitable traffic. By this edict he commissioned certain aldermen, and others, of London, "to seize all foreign tobacco, not of the growth of Virginia or Bermudas, for his benefit," and also "to buy up for his use all the tobacco coming from the said plantations, and to sell the same for his benefit."* But notwithstanding this, he granted his permission the very same month to import fifty thousand pounds of Spanish tobacco, specifying that he would buy the same and re-sell it to his liege subjects.† London was made the only mart through which tobacco could be imported, and as the weed was still sown in England, in spite of his proclamations, he renewed his thunders and prohibitions, of so heinous an act, and enjoined the plucking up of all that was growing.

On the 30th of March of the same year, a fresh ordinance commanded the entire colonial product to be sealed in exact accordance to the royal directions. "No person," said this instrument,‡ "shall henceforth buy any tobacco here but from our commissioners; which tobacco shall be sealed or stamped; and when sold again, a note shall be made, expressing the time when bought, and the quantity and quality thereof." On the 9th of the following August, in accordance with edicts of the former reign, a special license was required to enable any person to import tobacco, and even that was to be delivered up to the royal use, at his own estimate of a "reasonable price."§ A disregard of these decrees was matter for the Star Chamber—that pandered to the despotism of the Stewarts—and received the measure of its penalties. Such laws led to frequent and earnest discussion in America, and caused the people

* Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, &c.* tom. xviii. p. 831.

† Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, &c.* tom. xviii. p. 848. *A Proclamation touching Tobacco.*

‡ Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, &c.* tom. xviii. p. 886. *De Proclamatione de Signatione de Tabacco.*

§ Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, &c.* tom. xviii. p. 920. *De Proclamatione pro Ordinatione de Tabacco.*

of Virginia, in particular, to consider the extent of their rights, their privileges of trade, and their connection with a trans-Atlantic king.

The first recognition of a representative assembly in America, by a British monarch, grew out of the cultivation of tobacco, and the avarice of the crown in respect to that herb. On the 16th of June, 1628, Charles I. wrote to the governor and council of Virginia, desiring to purchase the whole tobacco crop, and directed them to lay his proposition before the *assembled burgesses*.* This representative body boldly refused to accede to the king's wishes, and determined to withhold their consent to his becoming the sole factor of the colonial staple. On the 26th of March, 1629, they protested against it with decision and firmness, and not only the burgesses themselves put their signatures to the protest, but it was likewise signed by the governor and council. These proceedings prevented the monarch's project from taking effect, and left him only his old weapons of proclamations and decrees. These he used with considerable vigor, and so far as royal ordinance, and royal excise officers could do it, London was constituted the only mart for American tobacco. The proclamation relating particularly to this point bears the date of January 6, 1630,† and Rushworth mentions another of August 10th, succeeding, "to prevent abuses growing by the unordered retailing of tobacco."‡

Thus was this plant, so humble in its origin, so despised in its initial progress, and so hated and denounced as soon as the celerity of its magic innovations was observed, finding almost constant use for the thoughts and wits of the British court, and notwithstanding the troublesome and revolutionary times of the first Charles, making the most prominent topic of English legislation. Well may Virgil's lines concerning Rumor, which we have chosen as an epigraph to this paper, be applied to tobacco :—

" Swift from the first ; and every moment brings
New vigor to her flights, new pinions to her wings.
Soon grows the pygmy to gigantic size ;
Her feet on earth, her forehead in the skies."§

Charles I., however, was not converted to the use of tobacco by the revenue he received from it, but seems to have participated in the personal dislike of his father to the weed, for when, during Lent of this year, he was entertained at Cambridge, it was ordered "that no tobacco be taken in the Hall, nor anywhere else publicly."||

The attempts of Charles to regulate the trade in tobacco so that he might reap the profits therefrom, though not so successful as he wished, were pursued without relaxation, and with the more zeal on account of refractory parliaments not voting him supplies in accordance with his

* Hening's *Statutes at Large*; being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature in 1619, vol. i. p. 129.

† Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventions, &c.* tom. xix. p. 235, *A Proclamation concerning Tobacco*.

‡ Historical Collections of Private Matters of State, Weighty Matters in Law, &c. vol. iii. p. 191.

§ Dryden's *Virgil*, vol. i. p. 246.

|| The *Progresses, Processions, and Magnificent Festivities of King James the First, &c.*, by John Nichols. F. S. A., vol. iii. p. 44.

desires. From 1630, till his power passed into other and better hands, proclamations were continually added to the royal archives, all having the unjust end of preying upon the industry of the tobacco planters.

About this time the French also commenced laying duties upon tobacco, and from the small imposition of thirty sols, first placed upon a pound, in 1629,* has grown the "régie" of the present day, from which, in 1844, the government realized the enormous sum of 102,000,000 francs.†

In Persia, too, where Sir Thomas Herbert then was, the severest punishments visited those who brought tobacco into the empire. He says that during his residence in Persia forty camels came from India laden with tobacco, and as Mamet Ally-Beg, the grand vizier, had neither his mouth stopped by a generous portion of the cargo, or his eyes covered with broad gold pieces, he discovered the whole. But Herbert narrates the circumstance in so naive a manner, that the account deserves to be given in his own words:—"For it seems," he says, "that forty camels entering loaden with tobacco out of India (the drivers being ignorant of a late prohibition, the king sometimes commanding and restraining as reasons of state invited), Mamet Ally-Beg, the favorite, (wanting his cash), commanded the penalty to be executed, which was to crop their ears and snip their noses: offering withal to his angry justice a dismissal of forty load of tobacco which was put into a deep hole that served as a pipe, and being inflamed, in a black vapor gave the citizens gratis for two whole days and nights an unpleasing incense."‡

In 1631, when the "invincible Gustavus Adolphus, the Lion of the North,"§ as Captain Dugald Dalgetty usually styled the celebrated Swedish monarch, was pursuing his career of triumph and victory in Germany, and was vanquishing the most illustrious Austrian generals, his troops introduced the custom of smoking tobacco into the region they conquered.|| These soldiers had learned to solace their military fatigues with the fumes of the Nicotian herb, and the smoke of their pipes was as potent in subjecting the tastes of the Germans to the new luxury as were their carbines in enforcing personal submission. The inhabitants of the margravate of Meissen enthusiastically adopted the habit,¶ and the event was commemorated by paintings on some excellent specimens of Misnian porcelain still preserved in Stockholm.** The Swedes and Germans were represented as partaking the gratification together, and the pipe was figured as playing the part of a European calumet, or a modern caduceus or Mercury.

In 1632 Sir George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, obtained a charter,

* Diderot et L'Alembert's Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers, tom. xv. p. 754.

† Nouveau Manuel Complet du Fabricant et de l'Amateur de Tabac, chap. i. p. 7.

‡ Some Years' Travell into Divers Parts, &c. p. 211.

§ A Legend of Montrose, chap. xii. p. 35.

¶ Pensées sur l'Agriculture des Allemands, par Blasco De Lanzi, p. 397.

|| Histoire Admirable des Plantes et Herbes esmerveillables et Miraculeuses en Nature, par Michel Du Roure, p. 506.

** Kohlner's Kertniss der Handwerke und Fabriken, Band ii. seite 222.

said to have been written by himself, of a portion of American territory north of the Potowmack, afterwards called Maryland, from Henrietta Maria, daughter of Voltaire's hero of the *Henriade*, the wife of Charles I., and herself a Catholic. In this colony from its very commencement, tobacco was assiduously cultivated, and was, as in Virginia, its great staple.*

In 1633, October 13th, Charles I. put forth another of his edicts in relation to this product. The ordinance was entitled, "A Proclamation for preventing of the abuses growing by the unordered Retailing of Tobacco,"† and was preceded, in the March previous, by one entitled, "A Proclamation restraining the abusive Venting of Tobacco," by which it was decreed "that none but respectable and substantial traders shall retail the same; of whom a catalogue shall be made for each city and town."‡ He afterwards expressly prohibits "all keepers of taverns, alehouses, inns, victualling houses, strong-water sellers, &c., from retailing tobacco." On the 9th of May, 1634, he issued a "Proclamation concerning the landing of Tobacco, and also forbidding the Planting thereof in the King's Dominions."§ The custom-house quay at London was the only place where it could be legally landed, in order to prevent "the defrauding of his Majesty of the duty thereon."

The object of all these laws was the same we have already seen, and upon which we have commented. They were oppressive and cruel, and were not popular in either England or America. The imposts weighed hard in both countries, and advantaged no one but the king. The prohibition he issued to forbid the planters of Virginia from selling tobacco to any person save certain commissioners appointed by himself, and who purchased for him, was justly obnoxious to the colonists. "They had the cruel mortification," says Robertson,|| "to behold the sovereign, who should have afforded them protection, engross all the profits of their industry, by seizing the only valuable commodity which they had to vend, and retaining the monopoly of it in his own hands."

Having in so despotic a manner monopolized the tobacco trade, it is not wonderful that besides the taxes, the colonial planters had to suffer from the knavery and extortion of English merchants. If Charles told a tithe of truth in his proclamations this was greatly the case, and he took advantage of the circumstance as a means of still further oppression. He issued a *Commission to Sir William Russell, Knight, and others*, in which he says the merchants and shopkeepers had made a prey of the American colonies, forcing them to pay fifty or sixty pounds' weight of tobacco for a pair of shoes, with such like unconscionable advantages in several other merchandizes," thus obliging them to mortgage their crops beforehand, and compelling them, as Charles says, "not only to petition for abatement of the royal customs and imposts, but in extreme necessity

* Bancroft's History of the United States, vol. i. p. 252.

† Rymer's Foedera, Conventiones, &c. tom. xix. p. 724.

‡ Rymer's Foedera, Conventiones, &c. tom. xix. p. 522.

§ Rymer's Foedera, Conventiones, &c. tom. xix. p. 553.

|| History of the Discovery and Settlement of America, book ix. p. 418.

to beg their bread from door to door, without any help or relief from the said merchants and shopkeepers."* For these reasons he claimed "the sole preëmption of the tobacco growing upon the said plantations, and that at such rates and prices as shall be found fit." This law placed the planters entirely at the mercy of the king; but still his measures did not altogether succeed to his mind, because the public voice was against them both in England and America. The hindrances and obstructions he experienced induced him afterwards to invent another expedient by which the interests of England were conciliated, and which was comparatively successful. Of this policy we shall hereafter speak.

The year 1634 produced laws injurious to tobacco dealers and consumers in other countries as well as the British dominions. The Grand Duke of Muscovy, Michael Fedorowitsch, seeing that the capital of his kingdom, built of wooden houses, had been consumed almost entirely by a fire, occasioned, as was supposed, by imprudent smokers, who went to bed with pipes in their mouths, he prohibited the importation of tobacco and its use in all his territories. For the first offence the punishment was the bastinado, or knout, a very cruel punishment in Russia; for the second offence was the penalty of having the nose cut off; and the third was forbidden under pain of death.†

The same year Amurath or Murad IV., surnamed *Ghazi*, or the Valiant, by the Turks, and of whose singularities and cruelties, while at the head of the Ottoman empire, they preserve so many relations, entered the lists against the herb, and in doing so displayed himself as emphatically one of those persons whom Butler describes,‡ that

"Compound for sins they are inclined to,
By damning those they have no mind to."

He notoriously and openly violated all the restrictions of the Koran and Mahometan religion concerning wine, and not only drank it in excessive quantities, but authorized its public sale and use among all classes by an express edict. On the other hand, to make amends with Heaven, he waged a furious war against opium, coffee and tobacco. Their use he punished with immediate death, and their respective consumers turned pale at the mention of his name, while his presence caused them to fall into fits.§ Paul Rycant, speaking of him, says, "But what was most strange was his horrid aversion to tobacco, the taking of which by any person whatsoever he forbid upon pain of death; which sentence he so vigorously executed, that he caused the legs and arms of two men, one that sold tobacco, and the other that took it, to be sawed off, and in that manner exposed to the view of the people; he also caused two others, a man and a woman, to be impaled alive, for the same offence, with a roll of tobacco around their necks."||

From 1634 to 1640 a number of proclamations were issued, by the

* Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, &c.* tom. xix. p. 560.

† Diderot et d'Alembert's *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire, &c.* tom. xv. p. 754.

‡ Hudibras, p. 15.

§ Mocquet's *Voyage d'Italie, du Levant, &c.* p. 109.

|| The History of the Turkish Empire, &c. p. 59.

British monarch, designed to restrict and monopolize the culture and trade of tobacco in such a manner as to redound to the king's own profit. In Jefferson's Chronological Memoranda, relative to the history of Virginia, the titles of such are given as had fallen under his observation, and they may be seen by referring to the excellent work he wrote upon his own State.*

In 1640, after having testily dissolved one Parliament, Charles I. was compelled to call another, and that was the celebrated Long Parliament, to which the English nation, America, and the world, are so much indebted. One of the early acts of that parliament was the impeachment of the Earl of Strafford, "the wicked Earl,"† as Pym correctly branded him, the pander to royal profligacy and tyranny, the bought apostate and enemy of the people. Among other transactions, he was active in advising and enforcing the various laws concerning tobacco which were promulgated by the master who had purchased him. He wished to confirm the despotism of Charles, make his prerogative preëminent even in private suits, and give him the means of raising any amount of money or men independent of all control but his own will. It was not wonderful, then, that both Charles and Strafford should care little how much they oppressed the Virginia planters, provided they could receive large imposts from their tobacco. The apostate Thomas Wentworth, however, did not obey the laws recommended; while he punished others for their infraction, he broke them shamefully himself. The impartial Rushworth gives an account of the trial of this nobleman, and upon this point says:—"Mr. Maynard did begin to open the 12th article, which was read. That he did import tobacco himself, and restrained others; forced the subjects to sell their commodity at low and under values, because they could not import it without a license, and when himself had bought it at low rates, he sold it at excessive great rates; so that he hath made near £100,000 profit by his monopoly."‡ He was justly sentenced, as will clearly appear when historians are untrammeled by monarchical laws, monarchical public opinion, and monarchical readers.

In Virginia, in 1638, there was much distress among the colonists in consequence of the unjustifiable and tyrannical legal interference with the culture and trade in tobacco. The laws of Charles I. bore oppressively upon them, and rendered the value of the staple fluctuating and uncertain. In this state of affairs, Sir Francis Wyatt, who was then Governor of Virginia, his council, and the burgesses, convened together, January 6, 1639, to consider what should be done "to disengage themselves of such debts as they were plunged into."§ They accordingly enacted that all the tobacco planted in 1639 should be "absolutely destroyed and burned, excepting and reserving so much in equal proportion for each planter as shall make in the whole the just quantity of twelve hundred thousand pounds of tobacco, the absolute best of the said tobacco and no more."

* Notes on Virginian, p. 241-249.

† Some Account of the English Regicides, &c. p. 116.

‡ The Tryal of Thomas Earl of Strafford, &c., faithfully collected, and impartially published, without observation or reflection, p. 402-415.

§ Hening's Statutes at Large, &c. vol. i. p. 225.

They also proceeded to alter the scale of debts, directly and without prevarication. It was enacted that "no man need pay more than two thirds of his debt during the stint;" and it was ordained that creditors should discharge their claims on debtors upon payment of "forty pounds of tobacco for a hundred."^{*} Judges Brockenbrough and Holmes admitted the justice of this proceeding,[†] and it was certainly more honorable than debasing the coin or corrupting the currency by issues of paper. In pursuance of their views, the governor and burgesses appointed "men of experience and integrity for the careful viewing of each man's crop of tobacco," who, under oath, and obliged by penalties to avoid neglect, were ordered to see that the law for destroying the plant was carried into effect. The same statute likewise enacted that for the years 1640 and 1641, "such restraint be had in planting as that there be planted and made twelve hundred thousand pounds of the like absolute tobacco, and no more; and if there be any tobacco over and beside the said quantity, that it shall yearly be absolutely destroyed, for and in consideration of the abatement aforesaid." There is afterwards allowed, however, the raising of an additional one hundred thousand pounds of tobacco "for the defraying of all public charges and impositions."[‡]

The consequence of this legislation upon the progress of tobacco, and even upon the government and interests of the American Colonies, the persecutions the herb began about this time to sustain in New England, the anathemas and edicts which still pursued it in other countries, and the triumphs it achieved over popes, kings, councils, and assemblies, vanquishing all its enemies whether ecclesiastical or secular, and confronting with the same boldness and success the cross, the crescent, and the sceptre, must form the subject of a future article. And if, Mr. Editor, any of the graver *doctores medicinae* who patronize the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal regard these therapeutical episodes as not sufficiently practical, and as by no means precise exponents of the *modus operandi* of tobacco's medical agency—if they shall exclaim, with magisterial tone, "to what purpose is all this—how is the profession to be made more efficient by this talk?" —I would answer, in the words of one of the most charming of American writers, "Alas! is there not wisdom enough extant for the instruction of the world? And if not, are there not thousands of abler pens laboring for its improvement? It is so much pleasanter to please than to instruct—to play the companion rather than the preceptor!"[§]

NOTES FOR A MEMOIR ON THE PATHOLOGY OF THE TEETH.—NO. III.

By A. G. Castle, M.D., Surgeon Dentist, N. York.

I now come to speak of the second class of teeth in the order of dental pathology—the yellowish white teeth. This group is found in individuals

* Hening's Statutes at Large, &c. vol. i. p. 225, 226.

† Cases, chiefly relating to the Penal Laws of the Commonwealth, copied from the Records of the General Court, &c. p. 588.

‡ Hening's Statutes at Large, &c. loc. cit.

§ Washington Irving's Sketch Book, vol. ii. p. 80.

of the nervo-sanguineous temperament, and is liable to the same affections as the first class—the transparent amber-like depositions, however, less frequently occurring, and then only upon the “abrasions” or worn surfaces of the manducating faces. Containing an excess of lime, compared with the first class, they are whiter in color, and possess less density in their structure; consequently they are much more delicate in their nature. The first class can with difficulty be cut by the several dental instruments; these, on the contrary, while they retain a certain degree of hardness, more readily yield to these mechanical applications. They decay more rapidly, the mortified portion being moist, sometimes soft, of a dirty brownish color, whilst in the first class, the decayed substance is comparatively dry, rough, and stringent upon the tongue, and somewhat resembles the *debris* of the tan-pit. Nor are they so firmly fixed in their sockets, as those of the preceding class. The *dentes sapientia* of the first class make their appearance invariably sound; those of the second class most generally with caries in their centre. The clefts or fissures are more numerous in this than in the first group. It is, therefore, not uncommon to find two or more caries in the same tooth, circumscribed to be sure, but deep seated near the nerve. The molar teeth, and frequently, with them, the cuspidati, thus being implicated in this species of affection, the acid and putrefied matter contained in these cells or cavities, in combination with atmospheric agents and temperature, irritates the nervous pulp, and is the exciting cause of inflammatory action. The “toothache” necessarily follows, in the sub-acute form, however, but when these internal vital portions of the teeth become exposed to the direct action of these various agents, acute inflammatory action supervenes, and the intense pain attending it. Until the discovery of destroying the pulp and nervous membranes by the application of the *oxidum arsenici*, or the *arsenias kali*, made by the eminent surgeon dentist, S. Spooner, M.D., of this city, and by him *immediately* made known to the profession, these teeth were extracted and lost to the animal economy. The cuspidati and incisors remain sound till a late period of life. When they yield, the inferior incisors are the last to give way.

An affection of these two classes of teeth, generally known in the nomenclature of dental diseases, and vulgarly called “scurvy in the gums,” I have classed with these groups in contra-distinction with those that follow, because I consider it to be in fact *gomphiasis*, in consequence of the absorption of the *alveoli* and their processes—the exciting cause being a chronic inflammation of the lining periosteum of the alveoli and the dental periosteum, reflected on the fangs of the teeth. There is consequently a loss of tone in the substance of the gums, to such an extent as to superinduce suppuration.

The proximate cause of this affection may be traced, no doubt, to neglect and uncleanliness, which may be known by the film of loose, viscid, corrugated and disorganized mucous membrane, covering the gums, which give to them a peculiarly unhealthy appearance. The tooth brush—like the towel when applied to the finger nails and their margins, preventing those painful appendages known as “hang-nails”—removes this irritating

matter ; as it also does, by its friction, the flaccidity and sponginess of the gums, and the jelly-like appearance of the edges and the points of the gums extending between and filling up the interstices of the teeth. The remote cause sometimes arises from a common "cold," and after a few days of suffering, the gums return to their usual healthy state.

When the remote cause of *gomphiasis* is either gastric or constitutional irritation, the periosteum becomes thickened, and, as will be perceived, occupies more space, and thereby pushes up the teeth from their sockets, so that they feel as if they did not belong to their positions. The jaws closing upon them in the act of manduction and deglutition, press them down upon the periosteum, and this mechanical irritation exciting the action of the lymphatics, they gradually destroy and absorb the superior edges of the alveoli, whilst the gums, losing the support of these processes, recede, thereby exposing the necks and part of the fangs of the teeth. The thickened sides of the dental periosteum and that lining the alveoli, coming in contact, adhere, and become indurated or cartilaginous ; and thus permanently remaining, the teeth cannot return, and they remain a considerable distance beyond the natural line, so that, whilst heretofore the ornament of the "human face divine," they now present an elongated disfigurement, often projecting beyond the external line of the lips—the gums, all this time, being, either separately or all in combination, tender, flabby, spongy, and bleeding upon the slightest touch of any substance, the tooth brush, or even in the process of masticating the food. Ultimately, the periosteum becomes thickened, and the teeth loosened, to such an extent, that they irritate and re-act upon each other—these remote and exciting causes producing an inflammatory action, thus keeping up their destructive agencies, too often assisted by that abomination to the dental family, the "tooth pick," until the teeth severally fall from the jaws, in a perfectly sound state. Previous to this *finale*, and co-existent with this affection of the molar teeth, it frequently happens that the absorption of the gums and alveoli below the bifurcation of the fangs of the teeth, superinduces *periostitis*, and causes very acute pain, equalling in intensity any neuralgic paroxysm (for which it is often mistaken). More frequently, it is, as it were, a dull rheumatic pain in the maxillary and malar bones and the temporal region extending to the ear, which has been treated as being "earache," neuralgic "affection," "nervous headache," &c. &c.

It is at first sight somewhat singular, that the alveolar processes should, to such an extent, enjoy the immunity they do from disease, and that the process of exfoliation so actively brought about in other bony structures, when exposed to injuries and atmospheric action, should be absent here. But this peculiarity of the alveoli receives a satisfactory explanation in the fact, that when fractured, no new deposition of bone takes place, and that upon the removal of the teeth, their absorption at once follows ; thus showing that they are intended only to discharge a temporary duty—that of maintaining the teeth in their position. I have observed disease, only, in cases where syphilitic patients of strumous or scorbutic habit, had been under mercurial influence, and then co-existent with phagadenic ulceration. Several years since, when engaged as assistant

House Surgeon to the New York City Hospital, I had an ample opportunity of observing several cases of that character, which of course are not likely to be often met with in private dental practice. Other cases occasionally arise in *dental practice* from the accidental "drilling" through a fang into the alveolus, or the fracturing a portion of the alveoli. One interesting case I met with, many years since, in a child, salivated for "inflammation on the lungs," where the *whole of the left side* of the inferior alveoli, from the *symphysis menti* to the *mylo-hyoidean* line, containing the deciduous and germs of the permanent teeth, exfoliated in one mass. With such exceptions, no matter to what moderate extent the alveoli may be exposed—and I have extracted *seventeen* teeth from one person's head at one sitting—the activity of the lymphatics in a few months removes every vestige of them, without any local or constitutional derangement, when hard smooth gums occupy their places, on the *smooth* solid basis of the *os maxillæ*. So immediately is the action of the lymphatics brought into requisition after the teeth have been removed, that I have never met with a single case when salivary calculus was for an instant deposited or adhered to the exposed ridges of the alveoli; even when collected round the teeth, the gums and periosteum recede, taking with them by absorption the alveolar processes. It would seem that they refused the embraces of the "tartar." The absorption of the alveoli commences on their superior inner margin, causing the external margin to curve over, inwards, with its covering gum, and as the alveoli recede by the absorption, the lining periosteum of the alveolar cells is brought to the surface, and forms the covering periosteum of this new formation of the maxillary bone.

Exostosis of the alveoli I have never met with; *induration of the periosteum* is sometimes mistaken for it. It is always *below*, or on a line with the alveoli, conjoined with the maxillary bones, similar to fungus haematoles of these parts. Dead fangs remaining in the maxillary bones are the exciting cause of numerous derangements; but the most common, when the individual enjoys general good health, is simply a local fistulous opening from one or more of the fangs, discharging pus through the alveoli.

Teeth partially decayed, or from some accidental cause, are affected by *INTRO-DENTAL ABSCESS*, or suppuration of the nervous pulp and its connecting membranes, superinduced by an inflammatory action arising from atmospheric and chemical agents, or the mechanical pressure of gold, silver, tin, amalgam and other "fillings" placed there to arrest decay. Intro-dental abscess is evidently, of late, much on the increase. It is frequently met with now, whilst some years since it was very rare. In my own practice it continues to be extremely shy in showing itself. Several gentlemen speak of numerous cases, and the exciting cause, "amalgam fillings," arising from the destruction of the vitality of the teeth containing it. Others, again, assert that it is caused by the *increased* vitality. And an eminent gentleman recently published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* a statement of upwards of two hundred cases, which he recommends to the favorable attention of the profession, in which he and his brother, in *one* year, had "drilled" (tapped?) into the necks of teeth filled with gold! foil, to let forth the matter (pus). The suppurating

process finally extends to the dental periosteum at the bottom of the socket forming a sac, in which pus is accumulated. This dental abscess is exceedingly painful, until a fistulous opening through the alveolus and gum, vulgarly known as "gum boil," forms an outlet for the pus and ichorous matter secreted within. Often, by its pressure, it excites the absorption of the lower surface of the sockets, and when in the superior maxillary bone, implicates the floor of the antrum maxillare, and the sac either extends and enlarges within, or the lining membrane of the maxillary antrum becomes involved in the inflammatory irritation, and pours out pus—the exciting cause of one form of abscess in this cavity.

ON THE TREATMENT OF YOUNG PERMANENT TEETH THAT REQUIRE PLUGGING.

By J. F. B. Flagg, M.D., Philadelphia.

In the course of a series of microscopic observations upon the human teeth, in which I have been engaged for more than two years past, I was early led to observe the striking difference of density in the bony portions of teeth of different ages; particularly in their more external parts, as the bone approaches either towards the enamel or cortex.

In two preparations, consisting of transverse sections at the neck, one, an adult tooth, the other of the age of eight years, I have observed this peculiar development most decidedly illustrated. A section of the older tooth being prepared sufficiently to allow the light to pass between its pores, when subjected to a powerful lens, presented a uniformly fibrous, or striated appearance, from the edge bordering upon the chamber of the nervous pulp, quite to its outer surface, with the slight exception of the cortex at this part of the tooth; that being beautifully defined by its clustering stars.

A similar section of the young permanent molar, although it appeared equally opaque as the other at its inner portion, yet it gradually became less so, for about two thirds of the way towards its outer circumference, when all its fibrous appearance was lost, and the external third became perfectly translucent.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the practice even of our best operators in regard to saving these early permanent teeth. It is not unfrequently necessary to fill the same cavity two or three times, at periods varying from one to three years, before we can confidently pronounce it to be an operation *lasting and permanently useful*. The probable reason for this is the change which is constantly progressing within the tooth, necessary to its growth and full development; the capillary tubes, in the immediate vicinity of the cavity so filled, evidently acting to its detriment. I think it reasonable to suppose that this condition may be superinduced by vital action being in contact with a foreign substance. Be this as it may, having pursued the following practice with uniform success, I recommend it to others desirous of benefiting the condition of young sufferers in this respect.

After removing every particle of decay, I devote as much time to burnishing the bony surface as is necessary to close the mouths of the tubuli opening into the cavity. This should be done with a smooth instrument, capable of reaching every portion of exposed bone, and with sufficient strength to cause the bone to present under the instrument somewhat the feeling of *enamel*; then wipe dry, and fill full, solid, and finish.—*Medical Examiner.*

GUN-SHOT WOUND—CURE.

By J. E. Stewart, Jackson, Tennessee.

R. K., a farmer, aged about 45, stout and healthy, sanguine temperament, and much addicted to ineptitude, and very quarrelsome while under the influence of liquor. August 19th, 1840, while intoxicated, undertook to chastise a small man, who not feeling a disposition to submit to a drubbing, shot him, with a shot gun, loaded with shot and tow wadding, the muzzle of the gun being in contact with the left side of the epigastric region. He fell, as if dead, and was conveyed home by four men in a sheet. About eight hours after the occurrence, I was called to see him. I found him somewhat stupid, face and extremities cold; pulse small, rapid, and scarcely perceptible; respiration hurried, with frequent sighing. There was evidently a state of collapse. On examination, I found a large opening in the left side, as broad as my hand and about as long; indeed it looked as if his whole side had been torn away. I immediately gave him a little of his favorite beverage, to wit, brandy and water, and ordered bottles of hot water to be applied to the axillæ and between the thighs. On a further examination, I found that the seventh and eighth ribs had been torn off from their attachments at the sternum, to within three inches of the spine; together with all their appurtenances, the pleura included—thus exposing the lungs, diaphragm, stomach and pericardium! Most of the wadding was removed, and some of the fragments of the missing ribs. I also discovered that two or more shot had passed through the left lobe of the lungs. As it was midnight when I was called, I merely wet the edges of the wound with a watery solution of opium, and applied lint; over which a light compress and bandage was applied. Remembering the aphorism of Hunter, “that those who always live above par (my patient was an epicure as well as an inept) are extremely liable to sink when attacked by disease or injury,” I was careful not to over-stimulate him. It was rational to conclude that, as my patient was stout and robust, and his blood inflamed by the state he was in just previous to the injury, if re-action should occur, it would be in excess; and consequently, more grave. Aug. 20th, re-action has taken place to some extent; pulse 100, firmer, complains very little. Ordered boiled rice and milk diet; stimulants cautiously continued. Aug. 21st, re-action fully established; pulse 115, rather full; tongue covered with white fur;

bowels torpid. Discontinued stimulants, and gave small doses of mag. sulph. and a quarter of a grain of tart. antimony every four hours. Aug. 22d, pulse 120, full and bounding; bowels have not been moved; tongue furred; headache. R. Venesec. oz. xvij.; mag. sulph. oz. j., to be taken immediately, and tart. emet. a quarter of a grain every four or six hours; diet absolute. Aug. 23d, pulse 110, rather full; bowels patent; slight headache; complains of great soreness. R. Venesect. oz. xij. Ordered gruel for diet; treatment continued. Aug. 24th, pulse 90, soft, rather feeble; bowels costive; tongue white; edges of wound dark purple; showing a state of sphacelation, and very offensive to smell. Removed the dead parts. R. Sprinkle Peruvian bark on edges of wound; but previously wetting it with tinct. myrrh. Other treatment continued, with the addition of small portions of whiskey; diet more liberal. Sept. 5th, pulse 90; bowels patent; suppuration healthy; the dead parts having been daily removed; granulations abundant. From this time my patient gradually, but steadily recovered. And after having taken about fifty satisfactory inspections of the contents of the chest, the wound closed. He now took a cough, and complained of much pain in his side; and as the cough increased, I deemed it prudent to make a small opening in the most depending part of the wound or cicatrix. A thin sanguineous fluid issued from the puncture, and the cough and pain ceased. After a month or two, the wound was again suffered to heal; but the cough and pain immediately returned, and he grew pale and lost flesh apace. The opening in the side was renewed; a viscid and straw-colored fluid issued forth. The cough and pain ceased as before, and his flesh returned. I now introduced a silver tube into the opening I had made, through which the same kind of liquid constantly drained. My patient quickly recovered his former health and strength; he also returned to his former habits of dissipation, and has had many a pugilistic contest since. In consequence of the loss of two ribs, he leans considerably to the left side.

Remarks.—This case presents several points of interest, as it stands opposed to almost all authority—which teaches that it is death for air to penetrate through the thoracic parietes. It is true that Dr. Wells, of South Carolina, and a few other bright luminaries of the present day, have shown to the contrary, and this case is positive testimony on the subject. Here was a man with almost half his left side torn off; thus admitting a free current of air not only into the pleura, but lungs and whole cavity of the chest; and yet no unpleasant consequences ensued! nor does he feel any inconvenience from the presence of the silver tube.—*Missouri Med. and Surg. Journal.*

THE STRAWBERRY LEAF—A VALUABLE AUXILIARY IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DYSENTERY.

By J. C. C. Blackburn, M.D., of Barnesville, Georgia.

BELIEVING that a discovery, however simple, which has a tendency to alleviate the sufferings of man, should be given without reserve to

the medical world, I feel disposed to present to its consideration the claims of the Wild Strawberry. For the last three years I have been endeavoring to analyze this plant, and to try, if possible, to arrive at its medicinal properties. I was led to this investigation from the mere casual fact of seeing a dog, that was apparently in severe pain, swallowing its leaves. And here just let me add, that if physicians would more frequently lend an observing eye to the conduct of the brute creation, when afflicted with diseases peculiar to them, they might find remedies for diseases, which though at present obtainable, yet remain undiscovered. I have used the strawberry leaves in every form, for the cure of dysentery; but the formula most desirable is as follows: R. one pound of the green leaves, add to them one quart of good French brandy, and boil to one pint. Give of the strained liquor one table-spoonful every three hours, until the disease in question be relieved of its distressing symptoms. I will here add *one* case, of the origin of which I am totally ignorant.

Mr. B., a volunteer returned from Mexico, was taken with dysentery at Matamoras last August a year ago. He was placed under the direction of the Surgeon to the Georgia Regiment, who attended him until he pronounced his case incurable. The patient afterwards recovered sufficient strength to accompany the regiment to Monterey, and thence to Vera Cruz, where he was again prostrated by this disease. He reached home last July, with a constitution almost broken down, and placed himself under my care. I resorted to the use of every agent within my knowledge for the cure of his disease, but without success. I at length determined to try the strawberry leaves, as in the formula above-mentioned. He had taken but ten spoonfuls when he commenced to improve, and speedily recovered. He is now *entirely cured*, and able to attend to the duties of his calling. I have used the strawberry leaves in many cases since, with the same happy result.—*Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 24, 1847.

Trustees of Insane Hospitals.—Since the publication of a paper by Dr. Wheeler, week before last, in this Journal, on the management of insane hospitals, it has occurred to us that the idea advanced in that communication in regard to having physicians for an advisory board, instead of gentlemen who have no acquaintance with mental maladies, is an exceedingly judicious one. It is customary for trustees of these institutions to fill vacancies by selecting persons of sound judgment in every-day affairs, and who have both leisure and inclination to give, without charge, as much time to the pecuniary interest of the charity, as may be necessary for its security and prosperity. Such boards must of course depend much on

the opinions and recommendations of the superintending physician, in carrying out plans for the general welfare of the insane inmates. It would be the height of folly for them to do otherwise, and the excellent condition of the various American asylums for the insane, is mainly in consequence of having at their head men of excellent medical qualifications for the position they occupy. Now it is obviously due to these efficient officers, on whom rests a great weight of responsibility, that they should have the advantage of a distinct council of medical advisers—a board that could appreciate their suggestions, second their best efforts, and co-operate with them in every effort for advancement in the treatment of their patients.

The Legislature of Massachusetts has certainly admitted that this is the true method of conducting the State Lunatic Hospital—inasmuch as one or two physicians have from the beginning had seats in the board of directors, and the tendency seems to be towards filling it entirely from the professional ranks. If such, finally, should be the case, and the whole machinery of that great depot of benevolence shall fall to the exclusive control of physicians, we are sure no detriment would ensue, and the institution might attain a still higher reputation. These are merely suggestions that address themselves to the mind, in the course of reading Dr. Wheeler's remarks; and should others think proper to pursue still further the interesting subject, our pages are at their service.

Vermont Asylum for the Insane.—It so happens that we are anticipated in the newspapers, from one season to another, in our observations on the annual reports of this institution. This circumstance, however, shall not prevent us from expressing our confidence in its superintendent, who has raised the Asylum to a position of distinction, by a systematic and prudent course in all the details of his duty. Vermont exhibits, in its excellent provision for the insane, a sympathy for the unfortunate, of more lasting renown to its inhabitants than the accumulation of riches or achievements in war. Charity, which clothes the naked, feeds the hungry, shelters the poor, and provides a happy home for those who have neither reason, property, nor relatives able to administer to their necessities, is a God-like attribute, and lives forever. By the Report of the Trustees of the Vermont Asylum, publicity is given to the gratifying fact, that the income exceeds the expenditures—hence it has become a self-supporting institution. For the year ending July 30th, 1847, the outgoes for stores, fuel, provisions, &c., were \$15,092 61; salaries and wages, \$6,483 29; medical supplies, \$342 18; improvements and repairs, \$2,724 31; furniture, clothing, bedding, &c., \$2,803 41. Income from board of patients, \$26,720 09. Since the opening of the Asylum, 1167 have been admitted, 863 discharged, and 304 remain under treatment. In consequence of the high price of provisions, the trustees have fixed the terms of admission of patients from other States, at two dollars a week—or one hundred dollars a year, which is cheap enough, and far more economical than to maintain an insane person at his own home.

Manual of Magnetism.—Mr. Daniel Davis, of Boston, an ingenious artist, and truly learned in whatever pertains to galvanism, magnetism, electro-magnetism, electro-dynamics, magneto-electricity and thermo-elec-

tricity, has brought out a second edition of his valuable practical treatise on these subjects. It is a duodecimo of 322 pages, illustrated by 180 original drawings, constituting, as a whole, the most perfect and acceptable work extant on these very important departments of science. Magnetism, in its connection with electricity, is the predominant topic. Since Mr. Davis published his first book, in 1842, further progress has been made, and various instruments constructed, that give additional interest to this manual. Drs. Bacon and W. F. Channing, of Boston, appear to have rendered assistance to the author, which he promptly acknowledges. The arrangement is founded upon a natural order. Schools, academies, colleges, and certainly all persons desirous of becoming practically familiar with magnetism, the power of powers, should be provided with a guide like this.

Practical Physiology for Schools and Families.—At a period too late for an extended notice the present week, a copy of a sensible volume by Edward Jarvis, M.D., of Dorchester Mass., was handed in. Dr. J. is an accurate man in every branch of study on which he engages, and we are therefore expecting something of no ordinary character. As a new system of physiology is quite out of the question, the most that any one has a right to expect from the very best sources, at present, is to have that which is obscurely expressed, in elaborate works, made easy of comprehension by plain common-sense people, who are desirous of understanding the laws which govern their own, in common with all animal bodies.

Water-Cure Reporter.—This is a New York enterprise, under the editorial guardianship of F. D. Pierson, M.D., and C. H. Meeker, M.D., proprietors of a water establishment on Fourteenth street, in the city of New York. Their new Journal, therefore, is a well-devised instrument for making known their locality, and for influencing those, who love to be under medical treatment, to seek the last remedy that promises well. The Orange Mountain institution is but an extended wing of the mother edifice in New York—and the proprietors, in their advertisement, make it appear a pleasant affair to be afloat at either place, according to the individual's taste for either town or country life. There is such manifest evidences of a determination to make money as fast as possible with these new pseudo-medical contrivances, that the wonder is that the really sick, and those imagining themselves so, are to be found in sufficient numbers to keep all the water-curing machines in dividend operation. A re-action must follow, as surely as over-trading produces failures and pecuniary derangements in mercantile affairs. Some excellent estates, with all the modern appliances for luxurious ease, will be in the market as soon as a surfeit of these Priessnitz hospitals is fairly acknowledged by those who support them.

Excision of the Liver.—Dr. M. Z. Kreider, of Lancaster, Ohio, is reported to have recently performed a surgical operation, that, if true, constitutes an era in surgery. He removed, it appears, a large portion of the liver, which was in a singularly diseased condition. On the authority of Dr. Thompson, the mass actually cut away, weighed twenty-nine pounds and a half. The patient, a young lady, says the Ohio State Journal, was

doing well on the 9th of November, some days after the operation. Some of the western journals will undoubtedly publish an exact statement of the case. Dr. Lawson, of Cincinnati, who is nearest, will perhaps furnish the particulars in the next *Lancet*.

Anatomy of Dentition.—Dr. William R. Lawrence, of this city, has presented to the cabinet of the Medical College, in Grove street, a series of twenty preparations of the maxillary bones, beautifully mounted on stands, illustrating the progress of dentition, from the fetal jaw to the perfect development of the teeth, and their decay from that point to extreme old age, when the sockets in which they stood are entirely obliterated. These were procured in Paris at a high price, and it is presumed there is not another set, so complete as this, in Europe. Boston has an early prospect of an hereditary munificence in the second generation of Lawrences, of as much importance to our cherished institutions in future times as has been the generosity and benevolence of their fathers to those of our day.

Bischoff on the Ovum.—Our readers who attend the interesting Embryological Lectures of Mons. Agassiz, will remember that in his second lecture he exhibited a copy of a tract by Bischoff, Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the University of Berlin, entitled "Proofs of the Maturation of the Ovum in the Mammalia, *sine coitu*," and containing accurate details of his many careful and conclusive experiments; and pronounced it to be a work which no one who desired to be thoroughly acquainted with the facts relating to this curious and interesting point in physiology, should neglect to peruse. We have great pleasure in announcing that translation of this little work, from the German, will shortly be published by Messrs. Wood, of which no one, we hope, will fail to procure a copy. We know that it will be well translated; and are sure that the perusal of the proofs by which the determination of this deeply-interesting point in obstetric physiology is effected, will amply repay him for the trifling cost to which he will be subjected.—*Annalist*.

Etherization at the New York Hospital.—Within the past week, four operations have been performed at this Hospital, upon patients while under the influence of ether, and all, we learn, with the most satisfactory results. Two were amputations below the knee, performed by Dr. Cheesman, with, as we are told, remarkable dexterity. The method selected was the circular one, in doing which Dr. C. has, we believe, no superior. The others were—first, the removal (or division) of a cicatrix on the neck, and one for fistulous opening in the perineum, performed by Dr. Buck. Both were tedious, and required that the influence of the ether should be long sustained; but in neither, as we learn, did the patients make any complaint of pain. Excluding its occasional and very infrequent, but always possible, dangers, etherization is, indeed, a precious boon to suffering humanity.—*Ibid.*

Erection of an Edifice for the Buffalo Medical College.—We are gratified in being able to announce to our readers, that a sufficient sum has been

subscribed by the citizens of this place, to secure the erection of a commodious and ornamental edifice for the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo. With the conviction that a suitable structure is alone necessary to place the school on a permanent basis, and secure its prosperity, the friends of the institution have just reason to congratulate themselves on the liberality and public spirit which have so promptly and efficiently responded to their appeal. The building at present occupied by the College is leased for a short period, and although it answers exceedingly well for the present, is not adapted to meet the prospective wants of the institution. The new edifice will probably be erected during the next summer.
—*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

Medical Miscellany.—Two schooners and four barques, each having medical men on board, have been sent from Stockholm to superintend the quarantine on the frontier of Switzerland—in consequence of the apprehension of the advance of the cholera.—Lectures have closed at the Berkshire Medical Institution. The class numbered 131. In 1846, 42 were graduated. The present catalogue gives no notice of those who have taken degrees in 1847.—The public health at Matamoras is improving.—A copy of Smith's Treatise on Fractures in the Vicinity of Joints, published in Dublin, has reached Boston. It is worth immediate re-publication.—A new medical journal, called the "New Jersey Medical Reporter and Transactions of the New Jersey Medical Society, edited by Dr. Joseph Parrish, is spoken of in some of our exchanges, but has not been received at this office.—Dr. Francis's address at the late anniversary of the New York Academy of Medicine is represented as a most eloquent and interesting production, and well worthy of the fame of its author.—The number of interments in New Orleans from July 3 to October 18, is stated in the New Orleans Medical Journal to have been 3990, of which 2241 were cases of yellow fever. The fever reached its acme about the 1st of September. It is computed that between twenty and twenty-five thousand were attacked with the disease.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Dr. Mattison's report of cases has been received.

MARRIED.—Wm. M. Murphy, M.D., of Hanging Rock, Ohio, to Miss L. A. Wilkins, of Mass.

DIED.—At Springfield, Ohio, Dr. John Patten. He took a little strychnine on the point of a knife, supposing it to be quinine, to taste, and died immediately.—At Tampico, Dr. C. M. Hitchcock, of the U. S. A. He entered the Army as Assistant Surgeon in 1834—was with General Taylor in all his battles—and was ultimately appointed Surgeon in Chief of the Army.—At New Boston, N. H., Dr. Horace Wason, of Manchester, Mass.—At Hadley, Mass., Dr. William Porter, 83.—At Philadelphia, W. H. Crawford, a medical student from Georgia, lost his life by a slight puncture in one finger, while dissecting.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Nov. 20th. 66.—Males, 32—females, 34.—Stillborn, 5. Of consumption, 12—typhus fever, 9—scarlet fever, 1—smallpox, 1—dropsy on the brain, 3—dysentery, 2—infantile, 3—disease of the heart, 2—teething, 1—disease of the bowels, 5—disease of the brain, 1—croup, 4—diarrhoea, 3—jaundice, 1—dropsy, 1—lung fever, 2—intemperance, 1—apoplexy, 1—accidental, 1—child-bed, 1—disease of the liver, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 3—convulsions, 1—old age, 3—bronchitis, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—cancer, 1.

Under 5 years, 22—between 5 and 20 years, 3—between 20 and 40 years, 17—between 40 and 60 years, 16—over 60 years, 8.

Oath of Hippocrates.—("The philosophic physician is equal to the gods.") To all physicians of all times.—I swear by Apollo, by Δ Esculapius, by Hygie α , by Panacea, by all the gods and goddesses whom I here invoke as witnesses, to fulfil, according to my best capacity and discernment, the oath which I pronounce and here subscribe.

I swear to consider my master as equal to my parents; I will unite my existence to his, and if he should ever require it, I will divide my effects with him. His sons shall be my brothers, and if they should wish to learn the art of healing, I will instruct them without any immediate salary, or any engagements for the future. Maxims, detailed explanations, in fine, all my medical doctrines shall be transmitted by me to my sons, to those of my master, to pupils engaged by writing and sworn according to medical law, but to none others.

I will prescribe to the sick a proper regimen according to my ability and discernment. I will abstain from all things unjust and injurious. I will never produce abortion. I will preserve, as a physician and a gentleman, the utmost purity of and sanctity of morals. I will never perform lithotomy, but leave that operation for those who make a profession of it.

Into whatever house I shall enter, going to carry aid to the sick, I will remain there a stranger to all iniquity, to all corruption, and to all criminal acts towards man or woman, bond or free. What I see or hear in private life whilst in the exercise of, or even out of the exercise of my profession, and which shall not be of a nature to be divulged, I will keep holy and inviolate.

If I fulfil faithfully this oath, and not violate it in any manner, may I obtain a celebrity as a gentleman and a physician, and be glorified by all men in all ages; but if I transgress it and perjure myself, may the contrary beset me.—*Translated for the St. Louis Med. and Surg. Jour.*

University of Louisiana.—The medical department of this promising institution is rapidly advancing to completion. Its dimensions are ample, the arrangements of the rooms admirable, and, when completed, which will be in time for the lectures this winter, it will equal, if it does not surpass, any similar institution in the country. It is astonishing to see with what rapidity this splendid structure has been raised; and much praise is therefore due the professors for their enterprise in the matter. Students who desire to attend lectures the coming winter in this city, will find ample accommodations, and every facility offered them for acquiring a thorough and practical knowledge of their profession.—*New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal.*

Treatment of Obstinate Hiccough by Prolonged Compression of the Epigastrium.—Dr. Boyer relates three cases of prolonged and alarming hiccough, which, having resisted all the usual means employed for its relief, were relieved by the application of pressure, a practice first suggested by Bordeu, and since revived by M. Rostan. A large pad is laid on the epigastrium, and bound forcibly on by means of a towel or bandage. It generally causes instant relief, but if discontinued too soon the hiccough returns. It is usually necessary to wear it for twenty-four hours, before it can be safely removed.—*Revue Medico-Chirurgicale.*